

asking you to vote on. Section 11 of the bill is, in my opinion, an attempt to reappropriate dollars that have already been spent by students attending colleges and universities in our state. A bookkeeping reappropriation to a new program that the Legislature has not yet authorized, has not yet created, will create when and if LB 468 passes, which I, frankly, hope it does not, but the sole purpose of this amendment is to convince somehow the federal government when they look at maintenance of effort that we didn't really spend this money the way we did. And I still have not heard where that's ever worked before, where we have been able to tell the federal government that we didn't really mean to spend those dollars that way, kind of a king's X to them that we didn't really mean to do that. Beyond that is the larger policy question and that policy question is that the dollars that we appropriate to help students, that we help students go to the universities and colleges in this state, whether students that choose to attend private institutions...keep in mind these aren't all wealthy kids that attend private institutions, but students that attend private institutions, whether they ought to be able to compete for those scholarship dollars on an equitable sort of basis. Also, keep in mind that LB 651, Senator Hall's bill, the Education Committee amendments have...give the Secondary Coordinating Commission an opportunity to cap, based on student resources, so the students...the wealthy students wouldn't qualify for this particular program. So we're not talking about giving dollars just to wealthy students as opposed to poor students, we're talking about students that attend those institutions that the state doesn't spend a quarter of a billion dollars a year in operating ought to have the same opportunity to qualify for those dollars. If you amend LB 812 by striking this language, you will be going a long way toward accomplishing that objective. For that reason, I urge you to adopt the Withem amendment to LB 812 which will strike Section 11 from the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. And the question is the adoption of the Withem amendment to LB 812. Those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the Withem amendment. Have you all voted? Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes let's do a call of the house and a roll call vote, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Clear the board, Mr. Clerk. Members will vote on placing themselves under call. Shall the house go under